



**EDUCATION TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL
NOTES
JUNE 25, 2003**

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The June 25, 2003, meeting of the Education Telecommunication Councils was held at Iowa Public Television and via the Iowa Communications Network with the following members present: Robert Barak, Board of Regents; Al Bode, ISEA; Jim Bodensteiner, Board of Regents; Paul Bowers, IAICU; Merv Cronbaugh, IACCT; Greg Davis, IASB; Ed Gambs, SAI; Mary Gannon, IASB; John Hartung, IAICU; Ellen Kabat Lensch, IACCT; David Montgomery, DE/CIANS; Pam Pfitzenmaier, IPTV; Kay Runge, DE/Pub Libraries; Gail Sullivan, DE; and Mary Travillian, AEA Boards. Kathryn O'Shaughnessy, ISEA, and Robert Vittengl, AEA Boards, were absent. The vacancy left by Mick Starcevich, SAI, is yet to be filled.

The following visitors were also present at roll call: Julie Thomas, RTC 6; Roger Rezabek, RTC 7; John Haack, RTC 10; Pat Thieben and Dennis Yoshimura, RTC 11; Cena Johnson, RTC 14; Linda Abel, RTC 15; Rebecca Hannum, Region 16; Tami Fujinaka and Mike Bacino, ICN; Robin Madison, Legislative Fiscal Bureau; John O'Connell and Lois Irwin, DE; and Kathy Borlin, Wayne Bruns, and Deb Fiscus, IPTV.

II. CUSTOMARY ETC BUSINESS IN THE MONTH OF JUNE

II.A. ETC Recommendation for FY05 RTC Appropriation

Paul Bowers opened the discussion concerning the ETC recommendation to the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board for RTC funding for FY05. A document was distributed that detailed the history of RTC appropriations from FY96 through FY04. A review of enrollments in ICN video classes and Internet-based classes was requested. The research conducted by Dana Rosenberg of Eastern Iowa Community College showing enrollment trends over the past several years was shared by Paul. It was pointed out that the RTC funding for FY96 was approximately the same as FY2004 while the number of educational sites during that time period had quadrupled. Following a lengthy discussion about the growth in enrollments in both video and Internet courses as well as an increase in the number of sites, the following motions were made:

MOTION 1

Jim Bodensteiner moved that the ETC recommend to the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board that the RTC funding remain at FY04 levels. Greg Davis seconded.

Based upon discussion that since most RTC funds are used for personnel salaries (schedulers and regional technicians), John Hartung made a friendly amendment to request an increase of 3% over FY04 funding to cover those increased salary expenses.

Ayes—15, Nays—0, Absent—2, Not Voting—0. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion then centered on the fact that with reduced RTC funding over the past three years and elimination of both School Improvement Technology funding and Phase III funds, staff development in educational technology/telecommunications (ICN video, Internet, educational technology in general) had been reduced.

MOTION 2

Mary Gannon moved that the ETC recommend to the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board that they request an additional RTC funding allocation of \$500,000 to be used for professional development for educators. Al Bode seconded.

Discussion followed concerning whether professional development funding should be tied to RTC formulas and whether such funding should be exclusively for ICN uses rather than more general educational technology uses. Further discussion focused on whether the Department of Education or the State Board of Education might be another body to advocate for funding of professional development for teachers.

Following the discussion, Mary Gannon made a friendly amendment to her motion: The ETC recommend to the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board and the State Board of Education that they strongly support a state appropriation for professional development. The request to the two boards will be accompanied by a letter from the ETC outlining the reasons and justifications for this request.

Ayes—15, Nays—0, Absent—2, Not Voting—0. Motion passed unanimously.

II.B. ETC Recommendation for FY05 Education Video Rates

Paul Bowers opened the discussion with an overview of the ICN video rates since FY1999. It was noted that in FY03, a differentiated rate was established by the ITTC for community colleges vs. Regents/independent colleges universities. It was also noted that the ITTC has increased most educational video rates at least 5% each year since FY02. After a lengthy discussion, the following motion was made:

Merv Cronbaugh moved that ICN educational video rates remain at FY04 levels. Kay Runge seconded. Discussion followed.

Pam Pfitzenmaier offered a friendly amendment to roll back rates to FY03 levels rather than remain at FY04 levels. Merv and Kay accepted the friendly amendment. Discussion followed.

Paul Bowers opened the floor for input from guests. Julie Thomas pointed out that with the advent of e-rate funding, there was no separate video rate for K-12/library uses to include non e-rate eligible purposes. It was discussed that a separate category should be added for K-12/library audience that was not E-rate eligible. Per this suggestion, the motion was amended to read:

MOTION 5

Merv Cronbaugh moved to amend the motion to roll back rates to FY 03 level and to create a new billing category for K-12/library customers not E-rate eligible, at the effective E-rate discount rate. Kay Runge seconded. Ayes—14, Nays—0, Absent—2, Not Voting—0. Amended motion passed unanimously.

II.C. Election of ETC Chair

MOTION 3

Pam Pfitzenmaier nominated Mary Gannon to serve as Chair for the June 03-June 04 period. Gail Sullivan seconded the nomination. All members in favor of the nomination. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION 4

Pam Pfitzenmaier nominated Ellen Kabat Lensch to serve as Chair-elect for the June 04-June 05 period. Mary Gannon seconded the nomination. All members in favor of the nomination. Motion passed unanimously.

III. ISSUES AND UPDATES

III.A. K-12 Use Task Force

Paul Bowers, Mark Schouten, Pam Pfitzenmaier, and Gail Sullivan gave a brief report on the K-12 Use Task Force. The creation of the task force was recommended by the ETC several months ago to discuss with ITTC how K-12 uses of the ICN might be impacted by various issues. The task force has met twice with the first meeting including Mark Schouten and Bob Hardman, ITTC; Stuart Fisher, ICN; and Paul Bowers and Pam Pfitzenmaier, ETC. Following the first meeting, the group was expanded to include the above as well as John Gillispie and Denise Sturm, ICN; and Roger Stirler and Gail Sullivan, DE. The discussions have focused on costs of Part III leases, the rapid growth in Internet applications, as well as ICN video uses and trends. A suggestion was made to expand participants to include a K-12 representative on this task force. Paul indicated he would seek interested K-12 participation in the next task force gathering.

III.B. ICN Services and Trends of Requests for Waivers

This issue was not discussed at this meeting.

III.C. Recent Legislation, Governor's Action, and ICN Future

This report was included in Item IV.

IV. DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LONG LINES LTD/NW IOWA TELEPHONE

Paul Bowers introduced Dirk J. "Jon" Winkel, President – CEO, Long Lines Ltd. Jon shared with the members and guests his background as well as his perspective on potential private sector use of various ICN assets, either through a lease or sale. Jon and ETC members discussed various issues related to the proposed sale/lease of ICN assets. Paula Feltner and Michael Heller, lobbyists, were also present with Jon, as was as his son, Dan Winkel.

V. OTHER ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no items from the floor.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The June 25, 2003, meeting of the Education Telecommunications Council adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting of the ETC will be September 22, 2003, at Iowa Public Television.